COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Defense Awards Contract For F-111 Construction

Air Force's Tactical Air Command is scheduled to receive 331 of the 493 F-111 supersonic aircraft included in a $1.8 billion definitive contract announced May 10 by the Department of Defense.

This fixed price incentive contract, signed by the Air Force with General Dynamics Corp. of Ft. Worth, Tex., supersedes a letter contract.

SAC To Get 64 Bombers

In addition to the 331 for TAC, the contract provides for 64 FB-111 bombers for the Strategic Air Command and 24 F-111B/Phoenix versions for the Navy.

Also, 24 F-111s have been ordered by Australia and 50 by the United Kingdom.

Of the 493 aircraft, 165 for Air Force and Navy and the F-111s for Australia and United Kingdom have been authorized by Congress through the current fiscal year.

The remainder of the 493 aircraft—254—would be funded by Congressional action on Fiscal 1968 and 1969 appropriation requests, DOD said.

Deliveries Begin This Year

Under the contract, deliveries are to begin this year and extend through early 1970.

Commenting on the definitive production contract, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell, explained: "The approval of this contract is an expression of our confidence in the F-111 as a vitally needed addition to and improvement of the operational inventory."

As for the F-111A, Secretary Brown in March testimony told House Subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriation, that initial deployment in the operational force will begin next September. He noted the FB-111 development is proceeding as scheduled. First flight of the RDT&E prototype is planned for July.

Appearing before the same subcommittees, Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze explained that five F-111Bs are now flying regularly in the development program. Four preproduction aircraft are scheduled for delivery in May 1968.

WAR TROPHY—Maj. Gen. William R. Peers, USA, (left) CG, 4th Infantry Div., presents a captured North Vietnamese infantry rifle to Major Arthur V. Holman, USAF, Flight B, 4th Air Commando Squadron commander. Gift was presented for unit's support of the Ivy Div. during Operation Sam Houston, taking place near Pleiku AB. Similar trophy went to 1st Air Commando Squadron.

Gen. Westmoreland Made Responsible For RVN 'Revolutionary Development'

U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker has given Gen. William C. Westmoreland responsibility for the performance of U.S. mission field programs in support of Revolutionary Development in Vietnam.

The ambassador believes the "RD," or often-termed "Pacification" program, is essentially civil-military in character.

At the same time, he assigned Robert Komer as Deputy for Revolutionary Development to Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, with personal rank of ambassador.

"We want to make it clear," Ambassador Bunker said, "that this pacification effort is primarily a Vietnamese effort and that we are in a supporting and advisory role."

The ambassador has directed that a single chain of responsibility for advice and support of the Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Program be instituted from Saigon down to district level.

He noted that unified management, a single chain of command, and a more closely detailed advisory effort will greatly improve U.S. support of the vital RD program.

Washington Memos

JULY DRAFT CALL of 19,900 has been requested by DOD with all inductees going to the Army. This compares to request to Selective Service to provide 19,800 for June and 18,000 this month. February call of 10,900 has been low so far this year. For the first seven months of 1967, the Defense Department has requested 107,500 inductees.

DOD STATISTICS SHOW that 9,681 U. S. service personnel lost their lives in Vietnam through hostile action causes from Jan. 1, 1961 through May 6, 1967. Additionally, 2,000 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

RADM. PAUL E. SEUFER, Officer in Charge of Construction, RVN; Deputy Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast Asia, and Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade, has been selected as one of the "Top Ten Public Works Men of the Year." Selection, made by American Public Works Association and Kiwanis International, is part of nation-wide observance of National Public Works Week.

FIVE AIR FORCE Academy graduates have been selected as "Outstanding Young Men of America" for 1967. They will be included in annual biographical sketches of some 10,000 young men of outstanding rank in U.S. Academy graduates named are Captains Karol J. Bobko, Bradley C. Hosmer, and David M. Goodrich, Class of 1959; and Captains John D. Sullivan and Terry R. Jorris, Class of 1961.

TWO 20-MINUTE MOVIES explaining philosophy and motivational aspects of Zero Defects have been produced for Air Force use by Air University. Films feature condensed versions of lectures originally presented at Zero Defects workshops held recently at Maxwell AFB.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN Army Suggestion Program during third quarter, FY67, over preceding quarter is attributed to command support at all levels. First year dollar benefits of $15.7 million were reported for quarter. Some 32,127 suggestions were received.

NAVY CONSERVATION WINNERS for 1966 are Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Meridian, Miss., and Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. Winners will be entered into all-service competition beginning May 15 for Secretary of Defense Conservation Award.

AIR FORCE HAS transferred Electronic Systems Division's Limited War Office (LWO) to Deputy for Tactical Systems. Established in November 1965, to coordinate and manage ESD's limited war office projects, LWO was a staff organization of ESD Commander Maj. Gen. John W. O'Neill.

ARMY NURSE CORPS plaque was presented to National Student Nurses' Association recognizing significant contributions. ANC Chief Col. Mildred I. Clark presented the plaque to Janet Sullenberger, NSNA President, at association's annual convention in New York City.

A $5.9 MILLION firm, fixed price contract is being awarded for troop housing and supporting facilities at Ft. Devens, Mass. This includes enlisted barracks, headquarters and classroom buildings, motor repair shops, and outdoor recreational facilities. Contract award to Franchi Construction Co., Newton, Mass., is by New England Engineer Division, Waltham, Mass.

A SEABEE'S GLACIER will soon fill a blank space in maps of trackless Antarctic around Ross Sea, as the U.S. Board of Geographic Names has designated "Flynn Glacier." Cdr. William F. Flynn (Ret.) commanded Seabee Detachment Bravo during the 1956-57 International Geophysical Year. Name honors Commander and his men for manning seven Antarctic research stations.

FIRST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Systems Orientation Conference for Senior Officers at U.S. Army Management School, Ft. Belvoir, Va., ended May 10. Conference is one of highest managerial courses offered by the Army. Attending were three major generals, three brigadiers, 49 colonels and five civilians in grades GS-14 and higher. Similar courses are expected to convene throughout May.

MARK-44 ANTISUBMARINE torpedo, with the Fleet and some foreign navies since 1960 for launch by both aircraft and surface ships, will be replaced by new MK-46 "follow-on" torpedo. Navy said last MK-44 electrically-propelled and controlled torpedo will come off production lines in August at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Station at Forest Park, Ill.

NIKE-X MISSILE SYSTEM research and development effort is receiving $2 million contract modification, being issued to Western Electric Co., Incorporated, Whippany, N. J., by NIKE-X Project Office, Huntsville, Ala.

FIRST U.S.-ESRO satellite launch is scheduled late this month from the Western Test Range, Calif. The 163-pound satellite was built in Europe under direction of the 10-member nation European Space Research Organization (ESRO). The satellite will carry seven scientific experiments to study solar and cosmic radiation. It will be launched by NASA on a Scout rocket.

A $3.3 MILLION fixed-price contract for four-story enlisted men's barracks and mess hall addition at Ft. Myer, Va., is being awarded to Norair Engineering Corp., Washington, D. C. Engineer District, Norfolk, Va., is awarding contract.

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Background for Commanders

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASIA*

I would like to sketch in brief outline the extraordinary initiatives that have originated in Bangkok in the past few years—initiatives which have caught the imagination and elicited the cooperation of almost all other nations in Asia.

It would be, I think, almost impossible to exaggerate the enormous importance of these developments to our country . . . They provide a striking validation of the correctness of our decision to meet fully the commitments this country had undertaken in Southeast Asia.

Patterns of Asian Cooperation

These extraordinary initiatives are rapidly filling in the outlines of firm patterns of regional cooperation in Asia.

- Among these, I would like particularly to call attention to the patient, determined and persistent diplomacy of U Nyun of Burma, the Executive Secretary of ECAFE, which led to the creation of the Asian Development Bank.
- It is in Bangkok that the activities of the four riparian states of the Mekong Basin have joined together in the Mekong Commission, successfully subordinating their political differences to a concerted effort for the development of the incredible potential inherent in this great river system—a potential judged by many experts to be as vast as that of our own TVA.
- In a few weeks, we shall see in Bangkok the second meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council, formed a year ago in Seoul. That meeting was preceded by a year and a half of patient work in Bangkok by the Ambassadors of the nations concerned under the chairmanship of the Thai Foreign Minister. This resulted in a degree of cooperation evidenced in Seoul which proved so startling to Western observers last year. I think we may confidently anticipate in the forthcoming meeting in Bangkok, revelations of additional progress which has been made in the intervening year.
- The reactivation of the Association of Southeast Asia has already proved an enormously attractive magnet for other nations in the area and I believe we can confidently expect a broadening of this subregional framework in the near future.
- The progress of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education is proceeding in the perfecting of the details of the new Asian Institute of Technology and the cooperative broadening of existing institutions in the fields of agriculture and tropical medicine which will provide additional momentum to the development of these badly needed additional human resources.
- We have just seen concluded in Manila the second meeting of the conference on Asian economic development which was first convened in Tokyo last year at Japanese initiative.

These are illustrations of the startling momentum already achieved on the basis of Asian acceptance of the validity of America's commitment. We are seeing here the exploratory stirrings of the rising Asian urge to get on the with the business of orderly regional growth through the collective engagement of Asian resources. As I have said before, the breadth of these activities is as impressive as it is little known. These new cooperative efforts extend not only into such fields as irrigation, hydro-electric power, transportation, communication, natural resources exploration, scientific and technical research, experimental agriculture, and quality manufacturing controls, but also into the fields of coordinated economic planning and cooperative fiscal policies.

Last October here in New York, Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman, in commenting on these developments, observed:

"The smaller nations in Southeast Asia have felt the need of getting closer with one another. If division has been the characteristic of the past and had brought about grievous losses of freedom and independence and had allowed interference and pressure by outside powers, the future aims should be for closer and more fruitful cooperation and integration. While such cooperation should be basically regional, it is not in our interest to make it exclusive. Outside elements may have a role to play but not a domineering or dominating role. If anything, it will be a cooperation on the basis of equality and partnership."

Opportunities for Western Cooperation

I would like to reiterate, Asian efforts to unify and fortify the region have begun to move so fast that a real danger now exists that American and Western adjustments to such dramatic and constructive change will fall behind [. . . in recognizing] the necessity for new techniques and accelerated action to match these Asian initiatives. Free Asia has reached the point where it is prepared to associate itself with new Western initiatives which complement its own. It would be a pessimist indeed who could not see the newly compelling opportunities for fruitful cooperation which Asians are providing in the course of regional reformation and development.

The question now is whether America and others have mastered the technique of full and equal partnership in Asia. I am increasingly confident that the answer will be affirmative.

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* *Excerpts from an address by U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Graham Martin at the Overseas Press Club on May 3.*

SecDef Reports on NATO Defense Minister Meeting

Defense Secretary NcNamara said other NATO countries understand our proposed moves from Europe next year are not any weakening of defenses but a simple stateside relocation of 35,000 NATO committed airmen and soldiers who could move back within a warning time of potential attack.

"Our allies understand this and endorse, therefore, the proposed relocations," he told newsmen during a May 10 planeside interview on his return from the early May NATO Defense Ministers Meeting.

At a later May 11 session, Defense officials hailed the European attitude as official endorsement of the "flexible response" doctrine. They stressed, however, this is nothing sudden but represents, instead, a slow evolution of NATO thought in the decade of the 60's.

DEEPFREEZE BRIEFING — RAdm. J. Lloyd Abbot Jr., (left) Commander, U.S. Naval Force, Antarctica, briefs Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, on upcoming Operation Deepfreeze 68, a continuing operation on the Antarctic continent.

AF 'Red Ball Express' Completes 1,000th Mission

Air Force's "Red Ball Express," jet-age version of the famed World War II truck convoys, completed its 1,000th supply mission to South Vietnam, early this month.

The Military Airlift Command said the 1,000th mission was reached when an all-jet C-141 Starlifter carried 30 tons of vital cargo from Travis AFB, Calif., to Vietnam. The supplies were unloaded just 30 hours after take-off.

Red Ball Express was put into effect December 1965 to speed supply Army units in Vietnam. The average daily Red Ball cargo is 30 tons.

It was noted that Army aircraft have been returned to flying status more than 10,000 times because of Red Ball Express operation.

Some 94 per cent of the items required to repair inoperable equipment is in the hands of frontline troops within seven days after the request was made through the Red Ball network, according to MAC.

Cost Effectiveness Factor Added to FY68 Contracts For Commercial Airlift

A cost effectiveness factor is being added to Air Force Fiscal Year 1968 commercial airlift contract awards.

This procurement procedure is expected to secure optimum economical rates and generate price competition.

Air Force has asked civilian airlines to propose rates for Military Airlift Command FY68 airlift contracts, based on each airline's historical cost experience and cost projections.

The proposals will be used, together with each airline's contribution of aircraft to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, to determine the amount of business the airline will receive.

Rate proposals will also be used by the Civil Aeronautics Board to establish industry-wide minimum rates.

The Air Force procedure will enable continued dealing with the airlines within the regulatory framework established by CAB, while reducing the total Defense airlift cost.

Defense Comm. Agency Cited on 7th Birthday

The Defense Communications Agency has been cited by Army and Air Force general officers for its role in meeting the ever-expanding telecommunications requirements created by the war in Vietnam.

Gen. F. S. Besson Jr., Commander, Army Materiel Command, said in a letter to DCA Commander Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, USA, that the agency's quick response to these requirements "has focused attention on your many achievements.

"Our military forces throughout the world clearly recognize the significant contribution the Defense Communications Agency is making to the security of our nation."

The Agency, celebrating its seventh anniversary, was also congratulated by Air Force Lt. Gen. H. C. Donnelly, Director of the Defense Atomic Support Agency.

The Defense Communications Agency was established in May 1960 by the then Secretary of Defense, Thomas B. Gates, and formed a single, integrated Defense Communications System from the separate Army, Navy and Air Force systems. DCA's primary responsibility is that of the system's management and direction.

Army to Activate 198th Inf. Brigade

Army will activate a separate infantry brigade at Ft. Hood, Tex., in May with an authorized strength greater than any of three other such brigades activated in the past two years.

The 198th Infantry Brigade's principal elements are three infantry and one artillery battalion. The authorized strength is around 5,600. Brigade strengths generally range around 3,000-4,000.

Principal 198th elements are 1st Battalions of the 6th, 45th and 52d Infantry and the 14th Artillery.

Other separate infantry brigades activated by Army since late 1965 are the 196th and 199th, both in Vietnam, and the 11th in Hawaii.

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